

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00520 100432Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 INT-05 AID-05 PRS-01 /034 W

-----100456Z 119405 /22

R 100229Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2709

INFO CINCPAC

MAC SCOTT AFB ILL

JCS/SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0520

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, WS

SUBJECT: WESTERN SAMOAN REQUEST FOR LOGISITICAL ASSISTANCE

REF: WELLINGTON 468 (DTG 062300 FEB 77)

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FEBRUARY 9 FROM GOVAMSAMOA FRANK BARNETT REPEATED FYI: QUOTE THESE ARE COMMENTS ON YOUR MESSAGE TO SECSTATE DATED FEBRUARY 6. THE TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT GOWS PURCHASE OF TWO CARS FOLLOWED THE CIRCULATION OF MANY RUMORS HERE AND THE SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONING OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE STAFF BY THE MEDIA AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. THE INFORMATION WAS NOT OFFERED AS AN OFFICIAL RELEASE BY GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SAMOA (GAS) ONE RUMOR WAS THAT GAS HAD SECRETLY PURCHASED THE CARS AT A COST OF OVER \$20,000. ANOTHER RUMOR SAID THAT GAS WAS REFUSING TO RELEASE CARS TO GOWS UNTIL PAYMENT OF \$11,000 IN CUSTOMS CHARGES. CRITICISM BECAUSE OF THESE RUMORS BEGAN TO EMBARRASS GAS, SO WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN WHAT GOWS CALLED A PERSONAL MATTER CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA BECAME A PUBLIC PROBLEM FOR GAS. REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION AS GOWS APPARENTLY WANTED WOULD HAVE GIVEN ADDED CREDENCE TO THE RUMORS. IF THE

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STATEMENT OF GOWS ARE REPORTED CORRECTLY, SOME INACCURACIES NEED TO BE POINTED OUT; THE CHECK WAS NOT GIVEN TO ME; I WAS OFF-ISLAND AT THE TIME. THE TV ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT MADE AFTER PAYMENT WAS MADE, PAYMENT WAS MADE 15 HOURS AFTER THE TV NEWS SHOW. OTHER EVENTS HAPPENED THAT WERE NOT RELATED TO GOWS OF WHICH YOU SHOULD KNOW IN THE EVENT OF FURTHER COMPLAINTS. WHEN THE GOWS REPRESENTATIVE BROUGHT THE CHECK,

HE ASKED THAT IT NOT BE CASHED PENDING APPEAL TO UPCOMING
USAID MISSION TO PAY TRANSPORTATION BILL. THE GOWS REPRESENTATIVE
HIMSELF APPEARED ON THE TV NEWS SHOW THE NIGHT AFTER THE
ANNOUNCEMENT IN DISPUTE. THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP SENT BY
GOWS TO GET THE CARS WAS JAILED HERE OVERNIGHT AFTER BECOMING
DRUNK AND DISORDERLY. IN SUMMARY, ONLY BASIC FACTS WERE
PROVIDED TO THE TV STAFF IN ORDER TO QUELL
EMBARRASMENTS HERE. I REGRET IT IF THOSE FACTS OF THE MEDIA
WORDING EMBARRASSED MINISTER EIKENI OR GOWS. BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.
FRANK BARNETT UNQUOTE.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-0407
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770252/aaaabufb.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 77 WELLINGTON 468
Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3349717
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN SAMOAN REQUEST FOR LOGISITICAL ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, WS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ff3d74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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